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ABSTRACT

This guide for prospective international graduate students provides information on the American system of graduate education. Topics covered are: (1) rationale for graduate study in the United States; (2) definition and description of graduate education; (3) appropriate background for graduate study; (3) selecting a graduate program; (4) the application process; (5) standardized tests; (6) acceptance procedures; (7) financing graduate study; (8) visas; and (9) important points about living in the United States. Included is an application checklist, three sources of information on graduate programs, and five sources of information on standardized tests. (KPT)

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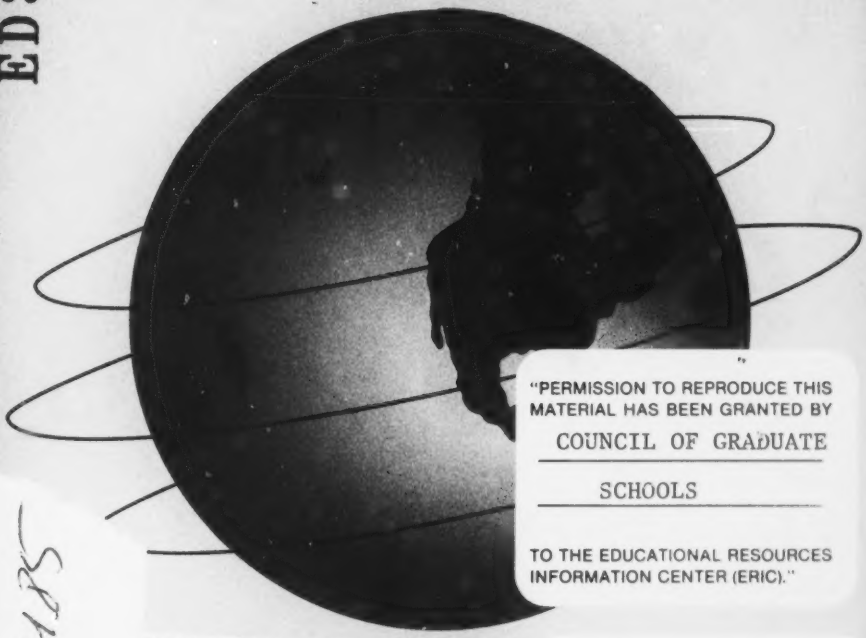
GRADUATE STUDY IN THE UNITED STATES

A Guide for Prospective International Graduate Students



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Council of Graduate Schools
Washington, D.C.

GRADUATE STUDY IN THE UNITED STATES

A Guide for Prospective International Graduate Students

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Foreword

For centuries, students with strong interests in advanced study have travelled to countries that provided outstanding educational opportunities, and that welcomed students, whatever their national origin, on the basis of their intellectual achievement and potential. We believe you will find this booklet helpful as you join that international community of scholars and seek to extend your education in the United States.

Why Graduate Study in the United States?

Every year, thousands of students from all over the world come to the United States for graduate study. In 1989–90 alone, over 165,000 international students were enrolled in U.S. graduate schools. They have been attracted by several distinctive features of American graduate education. Perhaps most important, American graduate education is universally perceived to be of very high quality and graduate degrees earned in the United States are held in high esteem throughout the world. In addition, graduate education in the U.S. is a huge enterprise, with over 1,200 institutions offering graduate degrees in hundreds of fields of study to more than one million graduate students.

The large number of programs offered, and the many different kinds of institutions offering them, provide students with a unique opportunity to select the graduate programs that best suit their needs and goals. Furthermore, the high state of development of research facilities, including libraries, laboratories, computer centers, and specialized equipment available in the U.S. ensures that students will have access to the latest techniques and materials needed to do research in their fields. Finally, the large number of graduate students, from many countries, enables individual students to meet and work with future colleagues. The friendships that form in graduate school often extend throughout one's life and the opportunity to get to know people with similar academic interests, from different countries, who are doing work in the same field, is an invaluable part of graduate education.

What is Graduate Education?

The term graduate education (referred to in many countries as postgraduate education) usually refers to degree-granting programs that require the equivalent of the U.S. baccalaureate degree as the minimum condition defining eligibility for admission. Historically, graduate programs in the United States were those leading to the Master of Arts (M.A.), Master of Science (M.S.), and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degrees in the arts and sciences. Today, many areas outside of the arts and sciences (e.g., engineering, education, business, agriculture) grant these degrees, and, in addition, many other master's and doctoral degree programs and titles (e.g., Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.), Master of Education (M.Ed.), Doctor of Education (Ed.D.), Doctor of Social Work (D.S.W.)) have been developed. These may be referred to as professional, graduate, or graduate/professional programs, depending on the tradition and administrative organization of the institution that awards the degree. The terms graduate and professional are sometimes used interchangeably when referring to these programs, and the difference between them is often arbitrary. Most graduate programs tend to be either research or practice-oriented. The central issue in research-oriented programs is the state of knowledge in a discipline; the central issue in practice-oriented programs is the state of practice in a profession.

Graduate education is advanced, focused, and scholarly. It is advanced in the sense that it is based upon the assumption that graduate students have acquired fundamental knowledge, both general and specific, in prior studies. It is focused in that its objective is to deal in depth with a specific discipline or field of study rather than to provide a broad educational experience. It is scholarly in that it is based on the premise of an evolving knowledge base, developed by those in the field and subject to challenge and validation by generally accepted procedures. All graduate students must understand and be able to use that knowledge base; doctoral students must contribute to its development.

Universities in the United States award approximately 290,000 master's degrees, with 800–1,000 different titles, each year. Currently, approximately 15 percent of these degrees are in the arts and sciences, and most of them are designed as preparation for further academic work, usually at the Ph.D. level. The remainder are in what are usually considered professional areas, with business and education accounting for approximately 50 percent of all

degrees awarded, and engineering for eight percent. For the most part, these professionally-oriented programs are designed to prepare students for professional practice rather than for further graduate work.

One year of full-time study is generally the minimum time period required for completing a master's program. Many programs, however, may require up to two years of study. The requirements will regularly include course work, and often a research requirement leading to a thesis or research project, as well as a comprehensive examination.

Approximately 34,000 doctorates are awarded each year in the United States, the vast majority of them being Ph.D.s. The Ph.D. is often referred to as a research doctorate in order to distinguish it from other doctoral degrees that do not require students to carry out independent research. This requirement forms the cornerstone of the Ph.D. degree. In general, all Ph.D. programs require that students take some advanced course work, including seminars and/or directed readings, pass an examination demonstrating comprehensive knowledge of the field of study, complete an independent research project, and successfully defend that research to a group of established scholars. It usually takes four to six years of full-time study to earn a Ph.D. Ph.D. programs are characterized by the autonomy given to individual faculty members to designate the specific courses and research projects engaged in by students working under their direction. Thus, Ph.D. programs are highly individualized, depending on the scholarly interests of both student and faculty. While the objective of all programs is the same, that is, to produce individuals capable of functioning as independent scholars, there is considerable variation, within disciplines and institutions, in how that objective is achieved.

In the sciences and engineering the usual practice is for students to become involved quite early in their graduate programs in ongoing research projects, funded for the most part by grants or contracts obtained by their doctoral advisers, and gradually to develop their own portion of those projects into dissertation topics. Students work closely with their advisers as real collaborators in research, and, in some fields, this collaboration extends to other graduate students and postdoctoral research associates as well. Thus, doctoral research may be done as part of a team, with individual students working together on the total project, but defining specific parts that can be defended as representing their own individual work.

In contrast to the sciences, students in the humanities usually develop dissertation topics in the general area of interest of their doctoral advisers, but do not work collaboratively on the research topics of their advisers.

All Ph.D. programs require each student to prepare a dissertation describing the results of the student's research. The form of that dissertation may vary widely across the disciplines, and usually reflects research and publication practices within each discipline. In the sciences, dissertations may represent a collection of shorter, interrelated research projects. Results from some of these projects, often done in collaboration with other researchers, may already have been published in the scientific literature. In the humanities, a student's dissertation usually represents the results of intense study of a single topic, reported in the form of a manuscript that may eventually be published as a book. The originality and significance of the work, rather than the form in which it is reported, are the factors that determine its acceptability for the Ph.D. degree.

Appropriate Background for Graduate Study

In the United States, each institution offering graduate programs sets its own requirements for admission. In addition, requirements often differ within institutions according to the demands of the various academic programs. Academic skills as demonstrated by strong marks in your first degree program, positive letters of recommendation from former professors, and, in some cases, good work experience, are the best evidence of your preparation for graduate studies. Scores on standardized tests such as the GRE (Graduate Record Examinations), the GMAT (Graduate Management Aptitude Test), and the Miller's Analogy Test may also be important factors for admission into graduate programs. For some programs, such as business, it is probably wise to have work experience after your first degree program before applying for graduate study, especially if the work is in a field of study related to the one in which you wish to study at the graduate level.

Admission to the Ph.D. program generally requires completion of a first degree, which is equivalent to a U.S. baccalaureate degree, in a closely related field. You need to have a strong background in the field of study before you begin advanced study. If your field of study is characterized by rapid advances in research or technology (such as computer science or biotechnology) it is strongly advised that you go directly to graduate school rather than interrupting your studies by working. The master's degree can be a way to prepare for the Ph.D., particularly if you wish to make a change from the subject you initially studied at the postsecondary level, but the

master's degree is not always a requirement for entrance into a doctoral program.

You must be able to read, write, speak, and understand the English language at a high level of proficiency. Much of your success will depend on your fluency in English. Most institutions will require you to demonstrate a certain level of English proficiency before you are admitted. This is usually determined by the results of a standardized English proficiency test such as the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Many institutions consider TOEFL scores in the range 550–600 adequate for admission to graduate study. If you do not have the necessary level of English proficiency you may be denied admission or required to participate in an intensive English language training program. Such training will involve an additional investment of time and money.

Selecting a Graduate Program

Because there are so many institutions in the U.S. that offer so many graduate degree programs, selecting the ones of interest to you cannot be done without first learning more about them. Selection criteria should include content of the degree program and related programs, research focus, institutional and faculty quality, and availability of major library holdings, computers, and other important facilities. Other factors that may be considered are the availability of financial support, services for international students, and geographic location.

You need to do your research carefully to choose the institution that will best suit your needs and talents. Many are highly specialized and offer only one kind of degree. Some may offer one or two professional master's degrees, often in education or business administration. Some institutions offer master's degrees only, while others offer doctorates in selected fields. Then there are major research universities that offer master's degrees and doctorates in a wide range of fields, but sub-specialties within these fields may differ among institutions.

One way to do research on graduate programs is to talk to professors at your own institution about what they know about graduate programs in their fields. Can they recommend professors at other institutions with whom you

should study? Friends who have completed studies in the U.S. are, of course, another source of information when choosing a graduate program.

The most important factor should be how well the graduate program of an institution fits your particular interests, academic background, and goals. Although a university may offer a doctorate in your field, it may not have a program in the branch of that field that interests you. For example, some psychology departments specialize in clinical psychology and offer only a few courses in behavioral psychology, and others do not offer clinical psychology at all. General guides such as those listed in the back of this booklet will tell you where programs are, and university catalogues will tell you about the emphasis in various departments.

An important point to determine is the nature of the program prerequisites. For the professional degree, work experience is often as important as academic prerequisites. For the research degree, however, there are almost always specific areas of subject matter and specific skills you must have mastered in prior studies. In the sciences and engineering, the prerequisites may be very specific.

Another important factor to determine is the selectivity of the program to which you want to apply: how many people apply to a given department or program, and how many are accepted? The greater the application pressure, the more likely it is that only the most highly qualified applicants will be accepted. This is the point at which to be very honest with yourself concerning your own academic background and intellectual potential.

You will probably have certain personal preferences regarding the kind of institution you want to attend. Size and location are two factors that often influence decisions about where to go to school. There are advantages to both large and small institutions. A large one may offer a greater variety of sub-fields within a given discipline. At a small institution you may get more personal attention. Location may also be important if you believe you would have trouble adjusting to a climate radically different from your own or, you may prefer a rural or an urban setting.

All of the above suggestions are made to assist you in determining what program will be appropriate for you. Note that it is suggested that you do not use published rankings or reputational studies about U.S. institutions that attempt to define which institutions are "better" than others. Obviously, there is a tremendous range of quality among the 1,200 institutions which offer graduate programs in the U.S. In fact, there are so many differences

between institutions and academic programs that the rankings are frequently misleading and too simplistic for applicants searching for an appropriate academic program.

There are sources available to help you learn the most about graduate study opportunities in the U.S. Several general guides to graduate programs are listed at the end of this booklet. There are organizations in your country that are sources of information for you when considering admission to graduate study. They include binational centers and commissions, such as Fulbright commissions, United States Information Service (USIS) offices, and the offices of the Institute of International Education (IIE) and America-Mideast Education and Training Services, Inc. (AMIDEAST). Advising and counseling services are available at no charge in those offices. Your own academic institution's library or career advising office may also have information and bulletins about U.S. colleges and universities.

How to Apply to Graduate School

When applying for graduate study, you apply to a specific program or department, even though you may send your materials to a central graduate admissions office. Your application is evaluated at the program or department level and at the institutional level.

You should begin the application process *at least one year* in advance of the time when you wish to enroll. You will need to obtain information about programs and select the programs to which you wish to apply, receive the institutional application forms, prepare all requested materials, take the required standardized tests, and allow the institution time to review your application and make a decision. Extra time must be allowed for international mail delivery and finally for obtaining the requisite passport and U.S. visa.

THE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

In the United States, each educational institution has its own application materials and sets its own requirements for the credentials that every applicant must submit. You should check carefully all application materials

you receive and be sure that you submit everything required by each institution to which you are applying. Each program may require different materials from you. Note the institution's application deadlines, and submit all required material well in advance of the deadlines; allow for slow overseas mail delivery. If you can supply all supporting materials with the application, you will facilitate a more timely review. If you have private financial resources or an external fellowship, indicate that on your application. If you are requesting financial aid from the U.S. institution, complete the appropriate form indicated by each institution to which you are applying. The following items are usually required.

Application Form

Each institution to which you apply will have its own application form which asks for the essential information that the institution will use to file and keep track of your application. Read each application with care and complete all the questions accurately. The responses *should* be typed if possible. Be consistent in how you give your name on all forms. Some institutions may require a preliminary application, which enables them to determine if you have the necessary academic background to be considered for admission. When you return the completed preliminary form, the institution will review it for eligibility for admission before sending you the formal application.

Academic Credentials (transcripts, mark sheets)

Records must be submitted for all postsecondary academic work completed or in progress and must give detailed information on the content and quality of your performance, including all courses taken each year, and grades received. The grading scale of the institution and your rank in class should be noted whenever possible. Degrees must be verified by the institutions granting the degrees with official copies of diplomas or statements of the dates of conferral.

All academic credentials must be originals bearing the seals and signatures of the registrar or copies verified by an academic official. Do not send documents that cannot be easily replaced.

All records sent must be in English. If the registrar of an institution does not issue records in English, original language records should be submitted together with notarized English translations. All translations must be literal

and complete versions of the original records. However, the names of degrees awarded should be given in the original language and not be translated into an English equivalent.

The Statement of Purpose

The statement of purpose is an extremely important part of the application because it gives the faculty assessing your application their most significant impression of you as an individual. What are your motivations? Do you write clearly? Do your interests really fit those of the department or institution? Can you communicate your ideas effectively? Are there special things about you that set you apart from other applicants and make you particularly desirable as a student?

You may need to write a different statement for each institution to which you apply. Before starting to write, read each institution's brochure and application carefully and understand the guidelines for your essay. State clearly your reasons for wanting to pursue graduate study, outline your areas of interest, and describe your past activities as they apply to your present and future interests. If you are applying to a Ph.D. program, be sure to include your research interests. Take the time to write the essay carefully, and review it before submitting it.

Recommendation Letters

Most institutions require several letters from professors who know your work as a student. These letters should not be from relatives or personal friends. The writers should give objective information about you as a student. They should describe your academic skills in relation to those of other students taught and your personal strengths for undertaking advanced study.

Application Fee

Most institutions require a nonrefundable application fee. This fee should be submitted in U.S. dollars. This fee is rarely waived for international applicants. It can be submitted on your behalf by relatives or friends in the United States, if obtaining U.S. funds is restricted in your home country. In such a case, be sure your name is indicated on the check.

STANDARDIZED TESTS

You should review the admission requirements of the institutions to which you plan to apply and determine if standardized tests, such as the Graduate

Record Examinations (GRE), the most widely used graduate admissions exam, or the Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT), required by virtually all graduate management programs, are required. In addition, most institutions require applicants who are not native English speakers to demonstrate proficiency in English through the use of standardized tests such as the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Standardized tests provide a common measure for comparing the qualifications of applicants who come from a variety of institutions with different standards.

While international students often are apprehensive about taking these standardized tests, you should not delay taking them. Some graduate departments will not review an application unless it is complete, including test scores. The best preparation for the tests is a good academic background, plus, of course, a good command of English. The sample tests given with each test application are very helpful. If you are applying for autumn admission of the subsequent year, you should plan to take these tests no later than October. It takes at least six weeks for the scores to be reported to institutions.

There are no "passing" scores on standardized tests. Your scores, while an important part of your application, are only one of several selection criteria, and will be reviewed together with all other parts of your application. Although tests can be retaken, scores rarely increase more than thirty points; sometimes they are lower than the first scores. An institution may evaluate your most recent scores, your highest scores, or may average your test scores, depending on its admissions policy.

General Aptitude Tests

If the GRE is required, it is important to note whether a specific subject test is required in addition to the general examination. The General Test examines several different areas.

The verbal ability measure is designed to test one's ability to reason with words in solving problems. Reasoning effectively in a verbal medium depends primarily upon the ability to discern, comprehend, and analyze relationships among words or groups of words and within larger units of discourse such as sentences and written passages.

The quantitative sections of the General Test are designed to measure basic mathematical skills, understanding of elementary mathematical concepts, and ability to reason quantitatively and to solve problems in a quantitative

setting. The mathematics required does not extend beyond that assumed to be common to the mathematics background of almost all examinees.*

The analytical sections of the General Test are designed to measure the ability to think analytically. Analytical reasoning questions focus on the ability to analyze a given structure of arbitrary relationships and to deduce new information from that structure, and logical reasoning questions focus on the ability to analyze and critique argumentation by understanding and assessing relationships among arguments or parts of an argument.

English Proficiency Tests

TOEFL, the most commonly used English proficiency examination, measures the ability of an applicant to understand and use the English language. It is concerned primarily with listening comprehension, reading comprehension, vocabulary, and other related factors. There are other English tests such as the American Language Institute of Georgetown University (ALIGU), and the Michigan Proficiency Test (MIPT), which some graduate schools accept. Be sure you understand which test is accepted (or required) by the institutions to which you are applying.

Test of Spoken English (TSE). The TSE is also produced by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) and measures a student's ability to communicate verbally. It is required by some institutions for those students who want to be considered for teaching assistantships.

How Students are Accepted

Offers of admission to graduate programs are made upon the recommendation of admissions committees composed of professors in specific programs. These professors review and evaluate the applications submitted by students and decide which ones meet the program's (and the institution's) standards for admission. There are several factors which limit the number of students any program can accept. Among the most important are the number of professors and their specific interests, the amount of space required (particularly in laboratory fields), computing and library resources,

*Reprinted from the 1990–91 edition of *GRE Information Bulletin*, published for the Graduate Record Examinations Board. Copyright 1990 by Educational Testing Service.

and, in research-oriented programs, the availability of money and equipment needed to carry out the research. Since most programs have more qualified applicants than they can possibly accept, admission is competitive and is offered only to those students judged to be best prepared and whose background and interests are well suited to the program.

Your performance in previous academic work is a strong indicator of your ability to do graduate work, and admissions committees consider it carefully. They will try to determine how rigorous your education has been, particularly in those fields related to your proposed graduate study. They will be interested also in any work, research experience, or publications you have had that will indicate a particular aptitude for advanced study. Admissions committees are aware of the difficulties that can arise when students and programs are not well matched, and will do all they can to ensure that offers of admission are made to students whose records indicate high potential for success in graduate work.

Financing Graduate Study

Graduate study in the United States is expensive. You must be sure you have access to adequate funds for yourself and any accompanying dependents for the period of study. You may be able to obtain support from your host institution, your government, foundations, or sponsoring fellowship programs to supplement your personal or family funds. You should be aware, however, that almost half (42 percent) of international graduate students in the U.S. support their studies through personal or family funds, unlike in many other parts of the world where graduate education may be financed largely by the state or other sources.

U.S. universities provide major support to about one-third of foreign graduate students in the form of research or teaching assistantships, which are awarded on a competitive basis by the departments to which the students apply. Institutional policies related to providing support to international students vary widely—some institutions will not even review the application of a foreign student unless access to sufficient resources to cover the cost of study is indicated at the time of application. Others routinely offer support to many admitted students—most frequently those entering doctoral programs in the sciences.

In the application materials you receive, most institutions include an estimated budget for tuition, living costs, insurance and other items.

Naturally, the budget estimate will be higher for students with accompanying dependents. Compare this budget carefully with resources you have available. A student visa for study in the United States will not be issued until adequate financial support can be verified.

As a first step to seeking financial assistance, you should look into any type of aid available from your own government, fellowship foundations in your country, or your employer, and make appropriate and timely application for all such support. A limited number of fellowships (Fulbright Fellowships, etc.) for graduate study may be available through the U.S. Embassy or Fulbright Commission in your country. You should check directly with them or with the local educational advising office to see if you are eligible. If the institution to which you are applying accepts applications for financial support from international students, you should, of course, complete whatever application for financial aid is indicated.

There are three primary types of institutional support available for graduate study: fellowships, teaching assistantships, and research assistantships.

Fellowships are grants that are awarded on the basis of academic merit. In general, they provide payment of tuition and a living expense stipend. They are intended to support only the student's expenses—never those of dependents.

Teaching assistantships are usually assigned by a particular program. The duties may involve leading a discussion section, supervising a laboratory, grading papers, and meeting with students to discuss the course. The typical appointment involves approximately 20 hours a week. If you are interested in obtaining a teaching assistantship, you should demonstrate excellent English proficiency. You should also keep in mind that this type of appointment, while providing good experience, also requires a substantial amount of your time and may increase the time required to complete your degree.

Research assistantships are available primarily in science and engineering fields, and occasionally in the social science disciplines. If you receive such an appointment, usually you will be working in a laboratory assisting a professor on research projects. Advanced students working on their theses are often supported as research assistants to do their own individual projects. Funding for research assistantships comes from a contract or grant obtained by a professor and may be available for only a limited amount of time.

Although institutional fellowships and teaching and research assistantships may be available for master's degree students, they are generally limited at that level. They are more likely to be reserved for doctoral students who require more time to complete their degree programs.

Employment

You should not count on employment as the means of covering your expenses while you are pursuing your degree. There are severe restrictions on employment permitted while in the U.S. on student or on exchange visitor status. You should also not count on income from an accompanying spouse who is also subject to severe employment restrictions.

Visas

To secure a visa for study in the United States, a Certificate of Eligibility must be obtained from the institution that has offered you admission or from the agency which is sponsoring your studies. This certificate cannot be issued to a student accepted for admission until evidence of satisfactory proficiency in the English language and documentation of adequate financial support is on file. The financial requirements are to ensure that you have sufficient funding in the U.S. and will not need to supplement your finances through unauthorized employment.

The Certificate of Eligibility must be presented to a U.S. visa officer at the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate in order to obtain a visa in your passport for entry into the U.S.

The most common types of visas for students are:

1. Student Visa (F-1) obtained with an I-20 Certificate of Eligibility issued by the institution that you plan to attend. You must enroll in a full-time course of study with F-1 status. Accompanying dependents enter on an F-2 visa and may not be employed in the United States. You must enroll in the institution that issued the Certificate of Eligibility. This status allows for some part-time employment if need can be documented.

2. Exchange-Visitor Visa (J-1) obtained with an IAP-66 Certificate of Eligibility issued by the institution or a sponsoring agency. This visa is

required for students sponsored by certain agencies, foundations, governments, or for reciprocal exchange students. Students with other sources of funding may obtain the IAP-66 on request. In some cases, Exchange-Visitors must leave the United States at the conclusion of their programs, may not change visa status, and may not apply for permanent residency in the United States until they have returned to their home countries for at least two years. This status allows for some employment if authorized by the sponsoring agency or institution. The spouse of an Exchange-Visitor enters on a J-2 visa and may, in some cases, obtain permission to work.

All students must maintain a status that allows for registration as a student. It is extremely difficult—sometimes impossible—to change visa categories after arrival in the United States. If you obtain a Tourist Visa (B-2) from the U.S. Consul, it will be difficult to change to an F-1 or J-1 student status after your arrival in the United States unless the words "Prospective Student" are noted on your B-2 visa stamp in your passport.

If you have questions about your status upon receipt of your Certificate of Eligibility, either the USIS student adviser or the U.S. consular office will answer your questions. Be sure you understand the limitations of the status before you leave your country. The rights and restrictions of each status are written on the Certificate of Eligibility document.

Some Important Points about Living in the United States

HOUSING

There is a great diversity in the type of housing accommodations available to graduate students in the United States. Many universities provide at least some housing on campus and may give international students preference for it. You should, however, expect to make your own arrangements for housing, whether on campus or off campus.

On-campus housing can range from a dormitory room, which may or may not be shared with another student, to a small apartment, to a reasonably

sized three-bedroom apartment for a family. The monthly rent for on-campus accommodations may be less than the rents off campus.

Many graduate students live off campus, either by themselves or with a small group in a house or apartment. Most universities have offices that list available rooms, apartments, and houses, provide maps of the local area, give advice on reasonable rents and lease arrangements. Rents throughout the United States vary greatly depending on whether the university is located in a rural, suburban, or urban environment, the demand from others who are competing for the same housing, and the region of the country.

Specific information about on-campus and off-campus housing is available from each institution.

HEALTH INSURANCE

The United States does not have a national health plan. The potential cost of health care to you if you are not insured is extraordinarily high. Some sponsoring organizations provide health insurance, and universities also offer various insurance plans. It is very important for you to review these plans. Most universities require health insurance. If you have accompanying dependents, you must have an insurance plan which adequately insures your dependents as well as yourself. Health insurance is expensive, but it is absolutely necessary to budget this cost as an expense for study in the United States.

TRANSPORTATION

Because of the extensive use of private cars, some parts of the United States have relatively little public transportation available compared to many other countries. At large or suburban/rural institutions, bicycles are a popular method of transportation, especially during pleasant weather. If you decide to live off campus, you should check with the university to determine whether a car is desirable or necessary. Student budgets rarely include in the basic figures the cost of purchasing a car. If you believe you will want or need a car, add its purchase and operating costs to your budget.

Application Checklist

- Application for admission forms
- Academic credentials (transcripts, mark sheets, etc.)
- Statement of purpose
- Letters of recommendation
- Standardized test results
- Application for financial aid
- Application for fellowships
- Application fee
- Any other requested information

Some Final Advice

This booklet provides information that will introduce you to the American system of graduate education. For more detailed information on programs and requirements, you must contact individual institutions. In addition, once you arrive at the institution in which you will study, there will be an international student office to help you. You should not hesitate to ask for advice and help from these offices, from your faculty adviser, and from other students. In the United States students are expected to speak up both in class and elsewhere, to let others know if they need help, and to persevere until they get what they need.

GOOD LUCK!

Sources of Information on Graduate Programs

Directory of Graduate Programs, latest ed. (4 vols.) Princeton, New Jersey, U.S.A.: Educational Testing Service.
For information: Educational Testing Service, Princeton, New Jersey 08541-6000 U.S.A.

Peterson's Annual Guides to Graduate Study, latest ed. (6 vols.). Princeton, New Jersey, U.S.A.: Peterson's Guides.
For information: Peterson's, P.O. Box 2123, Princeton, New Jersey 08543-2123 U.S.A.

Funding for U.S. Study: A Guide for Foreign Nationals, latest ed.
New York, New York, U.S.A.: Institute of International Education.
For information: Institute of International Education, 809 United Nations Plaza, New York, New York 10017-3580 U.S.A.

Sources of Information on Standardized Tests*

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Three and one-half hour multiple-choice test of English proficiency in three parts: listening comprehension, structure and written expression, and vocabulary and reading comprehension. The TOEFL test is administered 12 times a year, six times under the Saturday Testing Program, and six times under the Friday Testing Program. For information: TOEFL, P.O. Box 6151, Princeton, New Jersey 08541-6151 U.S.A.

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Test of Spoken English (TSE). Thirty-minute test of spoken English sometimes required in addition to the TOEFL. The TSE is administered 12 times a year. For information: TSE, P.O. Box 6151, Princeton, New Jersey 08541-6151 U.S.A.

Test of Written English (TWE). Thirty-minute essay test of written English sometimes required in addition to the TOEFL. The TWE is a required part of the TOEFL test at four administrations. For information: TWE, P.O. Box 6151, Princeton, New Jersey 08541-6151 U.S.A.

Graduate Record Examinations (GRE). Three and one-half hour General Test that measures verbal, quantitative and analytical ability, and three-hour Subject Tests in 15 fields. Scores on the General Test and/or one Subject Test are often required for admission to graduate and professional schools, and by fellowship sponsors. For information: Educational Testing Service, P.O. Box 6104, Princeton, New Jersey 08541-6104 U.S.A.

Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT). Three and one-half hour test of general verbal and mathematical skills. Usually required for admission to graduate schools of management or business. For information: Educational Testing Service, P.O. Box 6103, Princeton, New Jersey 08541-6103 U.S.A.